

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee on Awards for Innovation in Higher Education

**March 20, 2015
10:00 am**

**Ziggurat Building
Auditorium
707 3rd Street
West Sacramento, California 95605**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Michael Cohen, chair of the committee, called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Mollie Quasebarth, committee staff, called the roll. The following members were present:

Michael Cohen, Chair
Arnoldo Avalos
Sue Burr
Douglas Faigin
Dean Florez
Monica Lozano

Member Constance Carroll was absent.

Chair Cohen declared a quorum present.

II. Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings on September 16, 2014 and September 29, 2014

Chair Cohen asked members for any comments regarding the minutes of the September 16, 2014, and September 29, 2014 meetings. No comments were made.

Chair Cohen asked for public comment. No comments were made.

Member Lozano moved to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2014 meeting. Member Burr seconded the motion.

The committee approved the motion as follows:

Ayes:

Michael Cohen, Chair
Arnoldo Avalos
Sue Burr
Douglas Faigin
Dean Florez
Monica Lozano

Nays:

None

Member Lozano moved to approve the minutes of the September 29, 2014 meeting. Member Burr seconded the motion.

The committee approved the motion as follows:

Ayes:

Michael Cohen, Chair
Arnoldo Avalos
Sue Burr
Douglas Faigin
Dean Florez
Monica Lozano

Nays:

None

III. Chair's Report

Chair Cohen commented that he was impressed with the depth and diversity of the applications, as well as the collaborations reflected in those applications. He congratulated all of the applicants for their submittals. He commented that the applications were a good reminder of the innovation taking place across higher education in California, noting that the state's next challenge is to spread these innovations to other campuses and regions and encourage similar collaborations.

Chair Cohen asked members for any comments. No comments were made.

IV. Agenda Items

Item A: Overview of the 2015-16 Governor's Budget—Information

Christian Osmeña, committee staff, presented the item.

Chair Cohen asked members for any comments. No comments were made.

Chair Cohen asked for public comment. No comments were made.

Item B: Approval of Awardees—Action

Mr. Osmeña presented the item and read the following staff recommendation:

1. The committee identifies the applications included in Groups 1, 2, and 3, as specified in Appendix 3 to the item, as awardees.
2. The committee recognizes the innovation of the applications included in Group 4, as specified in Appendix 3.
3. The committee takes no further action on the applications included in Group 5, as specified in Appendix 3.

Member Lozano asked how application reviewers were trained. Mr. Osmeña described the process.

Member Lozano asked how the reviewers resolved differences in scores. Mr. Osmeña described the process.

Chair Cohen indicated that he would leave the room when the committee discussed the staff recommendation regarding the applications in Group 5. He left the room at this point in the discussion.

Member Burr requested that a motion made to approve Part 3 of the staff recommendation. Member Faigin moved the staff recommendation. Member Lozano second the motion.

Member Burr asked for public comment. No comments were made.

The committee approved the motion as follows:

Ayes:

Arnoldo Avalos

Sue Burr

Douglas Faigin

Dean Florez

Monica Lozano

Nays:

None

Member Lozano commented that all the institutions that submitted applications in Groups 4 and 5 should be thanked for their efforts and given feedback on their applications.

Member Florez commented that he was concerned that many institutions did not apply for awards.

Member Faigin asked how schools were notified about the program. Mr. Osmeña described the process staff used to reach out to campuses and system offices.

Chair Cohen returned to the room.

Member Avalos commented that, taking into account campuses that participated in applications, 100 percent of UC campuses participated, 91 percent of CSU campuses participated, and 63 percent of community colleges participated.

Chair Cohen commented that the Governor's Office was planning to issue a press release in the afternoon regarding the award winners. He commented that, if the committee chose to designate some applications as honorable mentions, those applications could be identified.

Chair Cohen asked for public comment. The following individuals made comments: Frank Gornick, Eloy Oakley, Julia Lopez, Lande Ajose, and Joe Wyse.

Member Avalos asked staff to discuss the comments submitted by Member Carroll prior to the meeting. Mr. Osmeña discussed those comments.

Following committee discussion, Member Burr made a motion as follows:

1. Approve Part 1 of the staff recommendation.
2. Approve the following: "The committee takes no further action on the applications included in Group 4, as specified in Appendix 3."
3. Recognize all of the applications included in Groups 4 and 5.

Member Avalos second the motion.

The committee approved the motion as follows:

Ayes:

Michael Cohen, Chair
Arnoldo Avalos
Sue Burr
Douglas Faigin
Dean Florez
Monica Lozano

Nays:

None

Item C: Approval of Award Amounts—Action

Chair Cohen presented the item.

Member Lozano commented that the committee should recognize the applications in Group 1 at a higher level. She indicated her support for awards of \$5,000,000 to the applications in Group 1, \$3,000,000 to the applications in Group 2, and \$2,500,000 to the applications in Group 3.

Member Avalos indicated his support for awards of \$4,500,000 to the applications in Group 1, \$3,500,000 to the applications in Group 2, and \$2,500,000 to the applications in Group 3.

Member Faigin commented that one benefit of awarding \$5,000,000 to those applications in the top group is the greater impact of the award. He indicated his support for awarding the higher amount for Group 1.

Member Burr indicated her support for awarding the higher amount for Group 1.

Member Avalos commented about the scale of the applications in Group 1.

Member Florez asked about the differential impact of the two approaches discussed. Chair Cohen described the differences.

Member Faigin commented that, although the committee would allocate funds in this item, the action in this item is not to give applicants any funds.

Chair Cohen asked for public comment. No comments were made.

Chair Cohen requested that a motion be made to approve the following:

The committee awards a total of fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) to the awardees identified by the committee at this meeting as follows:

- Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) to each of the applications in Group 1.
- Three million dollars (\$3,000,000) to each of the applications in Group 2.
- Two and a half million dollars (\$2,500,000) to each of the applications in Group 3.

Member Lozano made the motion. Member Burr seconded the motion.

The committee approved the motion as follows:

Ayes:

Michael Cohen, Chair
Arnoldo Avalos
Sue Burr
Douglas Faigin
Dean Florez
Monica Lozano

Nays:

None

Member Faigin asked Mr. Osmeña to read the motion again. Member Faigin commented that the motion suggests that funds have been awarded. Chair Cohen indicated that the committee's action could be clarified in the action on the following item.

Item D: Approval of Instructions for Report on Proposed Uses of Awards—Action

Mr. Osmeña presented the item and read the staff recommendation:

1. The committee approves the instructions for the report on proposed uses of awards included as Appendix 1 to this item, to be distributed by the Director of Finance to awardees.
2. This committee authorizes staff to take any necessary actions or make technical edits, or both, to these instructions, consistent with the committee's direction and intent.

Member Faigin commented the funds are intended for innovation. He commented that he was concerned that many of the activities recognized have been essential to meet the program's goals, but that they have been going on for some time and that they may no longer fit in the category of innovation. He commented that that the committee should indicate that it would like to see proposals that support real innovation, including new technology.

Member Avalos commented that he spent time researching the partnership between CSU Monterey Bay and Hartnell College and that the partnership reflected innovation.

Member Burr commented that innovation takes different forms in different communities and that a central tenet articulated by the Governor is subsidiarity.

Member Lozano commented that she agrees with the needs for both flexibility and for the use of technology. She noted that, in the applications, technology tended to be the underpinnings of data systems, but that technology could also be used to deliver instruction. She also asked how staff would provide feedback before the reports are presented to the committee. Mr. Osmeña responded.

Member Faigin asked how funds would be distributed. Mr. Osmeña responded that staff's intent had been to release all funds upon the committee's approval of the use of funds. Member Faigin commented that staff should consider whether funds need to be released up front.

Member Burr commented that the committee may be struggling with the concept of whether these funds are an award or a grant. She commented that there will be reports about whether the innovations are effective.

Member Faigin commented that the awards are tax dollars and that it may be appropriate to consider whether they should be distributed all at once or over time.

Chair Cohen asked for public comment. The following individuals made comments: Joe Wyse, Lande Ajose, Julia Lopez, Eloy Oakley, and Heidi Moore.

Member Faigin noted his intent that, moving forward, proposals for the use of funds should look at new ideas, including new experiments, given the tremendous needs for higher education in the state. He asked what kinds of forms these proposals will take. Mr. Osmeña responded, indicating that they would largely be narratives about intended uses.

Member Lozano commented that the committee should provide flexibility to awardees in using funds.

Chair Cohen encouraged that staff communicate to the awardees that their reports should provide a general timeline, but that the committee does not want to impose significant restrictions.

Member Avalos asked about the metrics that would be used to evaluate the innovations. Mr. Osmeña responded, indicating that applicants included metrics and goals in their initial applications. Camille Esch, committee staff, responded further.

Member Burr asked about statutory requirements related to further reporting. Mr. Osmeña responded.

Chair Cohen asked for a motion for the following:

1. The committee approves the instructions for the report on proposed uses of awards included as Appendix 1 to this item, to be distributed by the Director of Finance to the applicants selected for awards. Funds shall not be released to the coordinating institution of an application selected for an award until the committee has approved the report prepared by the coordinating institution pursuant to these instructions.
2. This committee authorizes staff to take any necessary actions or make technical edits, or both, to these instructions, consistent with the committee's direction and intent.

Member Lozano made the motion. Member Florez seconded the motion.

The committee approved the motion as follows:

Ayes:

Michael Cohen, Chair
Arnoldo Avalos
Sue Burr
Douglas Faigin
Dean Florez
Monica Lozano

Nays:

None

V. Public Comment

Chair Cohen asked for public comment. Paul Feist made comments.

Member Lozano requested that, at the next meeting, staff present a strategy to disseminate innovations.

VI. Adjournment

Chair Cohen adjourned the meeting at 11:45 am.

FOR APPROVAL